



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE **INDEPENDENCE MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm.

Timothy J. Sears, 29, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to two years in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 9, 2004, **Sears** pleaded guilty to illegally receiving a firearm while under felony indictment. By pleading guilty, **Sears** admitted that he received a Calwestco Jennings .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol between Jan. 26, 2004, and May 4, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is under felony indictment to receive any firearm or ammunition. At the time he possessed the firearm, Graves said, **Sears** was under felony indictment for possession of a controlled substance, tampering and resisting arrest in Cass County, Mo., distribution of a controlled substance and stealing in Jackson County, Mo., and stealing in Clay County, Mo.

Sears was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 13, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow